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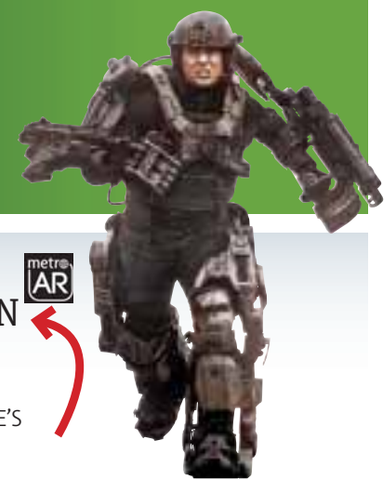

HERE COMES THE FUZZ

Actor Leo Fafard gets into character as WolfCop in downtown Vancouver on Tuesday, pretending to be heavy-handed with Joel Reimer while promoting the Saskatchewan-made comedy-horror film that will open at several Cineplex theatres in Regina, Saskatoon and elsewhere in Western Canada on Friday. Inset, writer and director Lowell Dean, seen with the title character, has started writing a script for a WolfCop sequel. Story, page 3. COURTESY JOEL REIMER; INSET: COURTESY WOLFCOP

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER ALIEN INVASION

metro AR

TOM CRUISE'S NEWEST FLICK, EDGE OF TOMORROW, IS ONE OF MANY ABOUT RELIVING THE SAME DAY OVER AND OVER. USE METRO AR FOR A SNEAK PEEK OF CRUISE'S ALIEN-FIGHTING BLOCKBUSTER

PAGE 9

Province takes aim at high-speed crashes

Pilot project. Speed limit to drop to 90 km/h on sections of two highways near Regina and Saskatoon

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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Drivers in the Regina and Saskatoon areas are being advised to slow down on highways beginning this week as the province rolls out speed reductions on two popular routes.

The speed limit will be dropped to 90 kilometres per hour on a section of the Trans-Canada Highway just east of Regina and on a portion of Highway 12 running through Martensville, immediately north of Saskatoon, as part of a Saskatchewan government pilot program aiming to curb collisions on high-speed roads.

"We're increasing the safety margin for all drivers as they access (these roads)," Don McMorris, minister of highways and infrastructure, told reporters on Tuesday on a service road along the Trans-Canada just east of Regina.

He noted that if the trial run is successful, more locations might be considered for lower limits.

McMorris pointed out that photo radar is another tool the province is planning to ramp up beginning in late June.

The reduced speed limits — down from 100 or 110 km/h — will take effect when new road signs are erected. Provincial officials say that could happen immediately or by Wednesday at the latest.

The speed change will affect Highway 1 between the Pilot Butte access road turnoff and a point just east of the junction of Highway 48, as well as Highway 12 from about two kilometres south of Martensville's Main Street to one kilometre north of that road.

McMorris pointed to the lowered speed limit as one of several measures the province is pursuing to increase safety along the Trans-Canada east of Regina.

The Saskatchewan Party government recently installed high-collision location signs on that congested stretch of the highway in a bid to encourage drivers to exercise caution.

The planned Regina Bypass, McMorris said, will act as a long-term solution to safety woes on Highway 1.

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† Assuming a mortgage of $270,000 with a 25-year amortization at a rate of 2.97%, switching to bi-weekly payments will decrease your amortization to less than 23 years and save you approximately $14,130 in interest. Alternatively, assuming the same mortgage of $270,000 with a 25-year amortization at a rate of 2.97%, if you keep your monthly payment frequency but apply annual lump sum prepayments of $500 and increase your regular payments by just $20 every year, after your first year, you will decrease your amortization to less than 21 years and save approximately $18,923 in interest.

Saskatoon

School ready to leave Redmen ruckus behind

The principal of Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon is relieved that scrutiny surrounding the high school is winding down.

Cody Hanke said more than 400 students gathered Tuesday to celebrate a new Redhawks team name and logo, after an activist movement criticized the former Redmen brand for cultural insensitivity.

"From a personal standpoint, it's been weighing on me," said Hanke. "I think we can put this behind us now, and continue to do the good work in classrooms we've always done."

He added that the crowd cheered when the revamped banner was unveiled.

"There was some power in the auditorium," Hanke said.

One of the aspects that Hanke said makes the Redhawks successful is how it still upholds the history of the 91-year-old institution.

"The word 'red' is the common piece from back in 1923," said Hanke. "We managed to keep that tradition alive."

A sale was held on Saturday with memorabilia featuring the approximately 50-year-old Redmen symbol, which Hanke said was used to fund costs associated with switching the logo.

Jaycie Schoffer, a Grade 12 student involved in the design process, said some of her peers were opposed to discarding a piece of their identity at first, though the community is ready to move on.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Actor Leo Fafard, left, who plays officer Lou Garou, and director Lowell Dean sign autographs at the Vancouver Art Gallery in Vancouver on Tuesday during a WolfCop promotional tour. Inset: Fafard as WolfCop gives a thumbs-up to fans at the Regina Fan Expo in May. COURTESY WOLFCOP

WolfCop catches industry attention, locks up sequel

Howl on. Is the made-in-Saskatchewan flick turning slowly, by the light of the full moon, into a franchise?

SARAH TAGUIAM
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There are only two more days until WolfCop makes a growl at theatres all across Canada, and the team behind the Saskatchewan-made comedy-horror film is already gearing up for a sequel.

"It's crazy to finally be this close to the end," writer and director Lowell Dean told Metro on Tuesday from Vancouver, where he's promoting the movie.

"We're a little million-dollar movie, and we've gotten the attention of a big movie — so that's been really great."

WolfCop, which follows unsuspecting hero Lou Garou, an alcoholic cop turned werewolf, will debut at Cineplex theatres in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver on Friday. It will screen in Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Halifax a week later.

The end of the first WolfCop film, however, is another beginning for Dean and his team.

Producer CineCoup, which financed the film with $1 million after the movie's producers won a national competition last year, has green-lit the production of a sequel.

The decision, Dean said, came following a positive response the film has received following its recent screening at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

Dean, who will also direct the sequel, has begun writing the next WolfCop script.

"The first film is like an origin story. You'll see WolfCop in action, but he's just coming to see what it's like being a wolf," he said. "So the second film will expand on that."

The WolfCop crew has been busy travelling across Canada promoting the film, though Dean said he will be in Regina for the premiere.

"That's where the film came from and that's where I want to be," he said.

WolfCop will premiere at the Galaxy Regina theatre on Friday at 7 p.m. The public has a chance to celebrate with the cast and crew following the premiere at an after-party at Beer Brothers. Tickets are $20 and available for purchase online.

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Natural gas

SaskEnergy slowed flow to industries

A long frigid winter this year that sparked record-high natural-gas consumption forced SaskEnergy to cut back on fuel it normally sends to some of its biggest customers.

The Crown utility says residential customers used 25 to 30 per cent more gas to get through the cold months.

To avoid service problems, the company reduced flows at times in January, February and March to five major industrial users with contracts that allow for interruptions in gas service.

Dave Burdeniuk, a SaskEnergy spokesman, says the businesses were still provided with enough energy for minimal heat to avoid damage to their facilities.

Burdeniuk says the utility was never in danger of completely running out of gas.

He also says to avoid a similar situation next winter, SaskEnergy will set up more mobile compressors and increase pipeline capacity.

CJME/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Promotion

Tourism video gets word out on Regina

Tourism Regina has released a promotional video to highlight life in the capital of what the organization's president calls the "new Saskatchewan."

The video, released on Tuesday, has been created to "communicate that Regina is a fast-paced, exciting city and very much a part of the 'new Saskatchewan' and that we are ready and willing to welcome you," Tourism Regina president and CEO John Lee said in a release.

The video includes scenes from various street festivals, Saskatchewan Roughriders and Regina Pats games, Saskatchewan Fashion Week, and last year's Juno Awards, among other events and places in the city.

In addition, it gives viewers a glimpse of attractions such as Wascana Lake, Victoria Park and the MacKenzie Art Gallery as local band Fly Points performs its song Always Do in the background.

"It also illustrates that we are equipped to host events and conferences in first-class facilities. We are leveraging our competitive edge against other municipalities and potential hosts of events and conferences," Lee explained.

At tourismregina.com, the video will also be used by the Regina Regional Opportunities Commission, the Regina Hotel Association, Events Regina, Conventions Regina and other organizations.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Regina police staff, city agree on new pension program

Negotiations. Changes make plan sustainable and affordable: Sergeant

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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City police Staff Sgt. Evan Bray tells media on Tuesday that the revamped pension plan is sustainable and affordable. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Regina police staff have agreed to a pension scheme that would see employees take home more of their pay while implementing funding levers to adjust benefits if necessary to account for market fluctuations.

"We've made changes to the plan that have made it sustainable, made it affordable," Staff Sgt. Evan Bray told media on Tuesday.

"It still provides a very strong retirement benefit for our members," added Bray, who represented police employees in pension talks with city hall.

Under the agreement, the City of Regina — through the board of police commissioners — will assume full responsibility for meeting the minimum funding requirements of the current plan in place until July 1. That plan had a shortfall of approximately $63 million as of Dec. 31, 2012. Previously, the cost of funding shortfalls was split evenly between police employees and the board.

Mayor Michael Fougere praised both sides for reaching the agreement.

"The parties decided early on ... they wanted to work together to come to an agreement that would have a sustainable plan (and) that would be a benefit to taxpayers," Fougere said.

However, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation said the agreement isn't good for the public purse.

"Dumping a $63-million problem onto the lap of taxpayers is not acceptable," said Colin Craig, the federation's regional director.

"It doesn't look like a fair deal for taxpayers."

The new pension program is termed a target benefit plan, which is a hybrid scheme that typically involves fixed contribution rates, a lifetime pension formula and the benefit levers.

Under the plan, the fixed employer and member contribution rate is 8.5 per cent of pay — lower than the 11.9 per cent average that members currently contribute.

"This is going to provide a template," Bray said. "Not just for police pension plans across Canada, but (for) other pension plans."

The new pension program will take effect at the beginning of July.

City mulls phased development plan to cover growth

A building is seen under construction in Regina's east end. The city is considering a temporary financing plan that would allow developers to begin some projects early. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

City hall is poised to debate a temporary financing scheme that would permit developers to start work early on some subdivisions in return for paying increased municipal fees.

On Monday, city council's executive committee will mull an interim phasing and financing plan that would allow firms to begin developing some greenfield neighbourhoods in a bid to ease the squeeze on municipal coffers from Regina's surging residential construction.

"Associated with that interim plan are some fees that would be attached to new growth and are required to pay for the infrastructure that's going to be in those neighbourhoods," said Jason Carlston, executive director of the city's community planning and development division.

"We needed to look at how to achieve long-term financial viability by sequencing growth that would occur in these neighbourhoods."

Like most municipalities, the City of Regina charges developers a servicing fee to cover the costs of sewers, sidewalks and other necessary infrastructure in new subdivisions.

Under the current model, though, those fees would be incapable of generating the "required revenue" to cover costs for the hefty number of planned subdivisions "until years after the capital expenditure had been made," states a report prepared by city administrators.

If no changes are made, the report warns, the city would have to exceed its debt limit and turn to taxpayers to fork over the "equivalent of a one-time seven per cent mill-rate increase" to pay for the additional infrastructure.

Carlston notes that city staff have begun to review the servicing-fee program.

He adds that the idea for the interim plan came from consultations with members of the home-construction industry. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Girl in stabbing case may be mentally ill: Lawyer

Slenderman. Two girls have been charged with first-degree attempted homicide in a stabbing allegedly aimed at pleasing a fictional Internet character

Rescue workers take a stabbing victim to the ambulance in Waukesha, Wis. ABE VAN DYKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 12-year-old girl accused of plotting to kill a friend to curry favour with a fictional Internet character shows signs of mental illness and should be in a hospital, her defence attorney said Tuesday.

The girl and another 12-year-old have been charged as adults with first-degree attempted homicide in a stabbing that nearly killed another child the same age.

The two girls reportedly said to investigators that they had plotted for months to kill their friend because a character called Slenderman required them to kill someone before they could become his "proxy."

Both girls are being held at a juvenile detention centre. Anthony Cotton, the attorney for one girl, said a judge rejected his request Monday to have the girl transferred to a mental health facility, but he will renew that request when she returns to court next week.

"From what I know, we've got a young girl here who has no previous criminal record at all and, if the record is accurate, probably suffers from very serious mental health issues," said Cotton.

Cotton said the girl's parents are trying to figure out whether there were any signs they may have missed.

The girls told investigators they read about Slenderman on the horror website creepypasta.wikia.com. It's not clear whether they got access to the site at home or at school.

Both were charged Monday in Waukesha County Circuit Court; they each face up to 65 years in prison if convicted. A court commissioner set bail at $500,000 cash per child.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trial underway. Driver charged in two deaths after she stopped to shoo ducks

A young driver's decision to stop her car on a highway to help shoo along ducks dramatically changed the lives of an entire Quebec family, a jury trial in Montreal heard Tuesday.

Emma Czornobaj has pleaded not guilty to two counts each of criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving causing the deaths of Andre Roy, 50, and his 16-year-old daughter, Jessie. They are survived by Pauline Volikakis, Andre Roy's wife of 20 years and Jessie's mother.

It should have been a quick 20-minute motorcycle ride home for Volikakis and her family to cap off a glorious summer day in 2010. She and her husband were both driving motorcycles; their daughter was with Roy on his bike. Volikakis fought back tears as she described how the lives of her husband and their only child ended so suddenly.

Crown prosecutors suggested Czornobaj's decision to come to a full stop to help a family of ducks triggered a fatal accident when Roy's motorcycle slammed into her stationary car, sending the bike's occupants flying.

Accused Emma Czornobaj at the Montreal courthouse on Tuesday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court heard the car was stopped with the engine running and without emergency lights, on Highway 30, south of Montreal.

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Three-parent IVF babies. GMO embryos appear not 'unsafe': U.K. regulator

Britain's fertility regulator says controversial techniques to create embryos from the DNA of three people "do not appear to be unsafe" even though no one has ever received the treatment, according to a new report released Tuesday.

The report based its conclusion largely on lab tests and some animal experiments.

"Until a healthy baby is born, we cannot say 100 per cent that these techniques are safe," said Dr. Andy Greenfield, who chaired the expert panel behind the report.

The techniques are meant to stop mothers from passing on potentially fatal genetic diseases to their babies and involve altering a human egg or embryo before transferring it into a woman. Such methods have only been allowed for research in a lab, but the U.K. department of health said it hopes for new legislation this year. If approved, Britain would become the first country to allow embryos to be genetically modified this way.

Critics have described the research as unethical and stressed its unknown dangers.

Marcy Darnovsky, of the Center for Genetics and Society in the U.S., warned that allowing the method might lead to a slippery slope and tempt scientists and parents to use the techniques to create designer babies with certain traits.

Experts say that if approved, these new methods would likely be used in about a dozen British women every year who are known to have faulty mitochondria — the energy-producing structures outside a cell's nucleus. Genetic defects in the mitochondria can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, heart problems and mental retardation.

The techniques involve removing the nucleus DNA from the egg of a prospective mother and inserting it into a donor egg, where the nucleus DNA has been removed.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration held a meeting to discuss the techniques and scientists warned it could take decades to determine if they are safe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not surefire either

"Safety is not a straightforward issue."

Dr. Andy Greenfield, chair of the expert panel behind the British report, reacting to criticism that the new technology may run into unexpected dangers.

Hundreds signed. Letter from scientists to PM: Reject Northern Gateway

A letter signed by hundreds of scientists from around the world is urging Prime Minister Stephen Harper to reject a federal panel report recommending approval of the Northern Gateway pipeline.

The federal government must release its final decision by June 17 on the 1,200-kilometre pipeline that would link the Alberta oilsands with a tanker port on the B.C. coast.

The letter sent this week to Harper and several key cabinet ministers said the report by the joint review panel is "indefensible as a basis to judge in favour of the project."

It was signed by 300 scientists at universities from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, along with colleagues from international institutions including Stanford, Cornell and Oxford.

The chief concern from the group is that the panel did not look at the increase in global greenhouse gas emissions that will result from the expansion in oilsands production.

"The panel was not given a mandate ... to look at the larger climate change picture," said Kai Chan, an associate professor at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia and one of the instigators of the petition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
THE CANADIAN PRESS

People's Liberation Army soldiers march near their rifles before an honour guard performance outside the Great Hall of the People near Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Tuesday. China allows no discussion of the events of June 3-4, 1989, when soldiers accompanied by tanks and armoured personnel carriers fought their way into the heart of the city, killing hundreds of protesting citizens and onlookers. ALEXANDER F. YUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors recall Tiananmen Square

After 25 years. As China still tries to cover up the massacre, those who lived tell their tales of June 4, 1989, in Beijing

LUCY SCHOLEY
Metro in Ottawa

Liane Lee remembers holding back a screaming 12-year-old boy in Tiananmen Square.

"They killed my brother. They killed my brother!" she recalls him yelling to the soldiers who had been firing at the pro-democracy protesters. It was the early hours of June 4, 1989 — a day that Lee still struggles talking about 25 years later. But she recounted the bloody military massacre to an audience at the University of Ottawa on Tuesday.

Then a 26-year-old university student from Hong Kong, Lee held the boy back until he finally wriggled away. She says she still remembers the smell of his sweat and the warmth of his tears. Witnesses say the boy's body was later carried to the first aid station, covered in blood, but Lee does not remember that. She figures she blocked it from her memory.

Now 55 and living in Cleveland, Ohio, Lee says many Chinese people have accused her of lying about the massacre that killed a still-unknown number of the country's students, teachers and workers.

"I want to remember their names, but I can only remember their noble faces," said Lee, who urged the audience to reflect on the massacre that the Chinese government is still trying to cover up today. Many scholars, artists and lawyers who have tried to commemorate the event on this milestone have wound up under house arrest or in jail.

Chen Yuguo was a teacher at Beijing University who had been camping out at the square in the days leading up to the massacre. He was in one of the last groups that left at about 5 a.m. on June 4, after seeing many people crushed by tanks and a colleague "badly, almost fatally stabbed."

Cheuk Kwan, of the Toronto Association for Democracy in China, said human rights have "deteriorated" in China since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"We should not forget June 4," he said. "Those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

Quoted

"We should not forget June 4. Those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

Cheuk Kwan, of the Toronto Association for Democracy in China, saying human rights have deteriorated in China since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Currently

Like it never happened

China allows no public discussion of the events of June 3-4, 1989, when soldiers accompanied by tanks and armoured personnel carriers fought their way into the heart of the city, killing hundreds of unarmed protesters and onlookers. The government has never issued a complete, formal accounting of the crackdown and the number of casualties.

Beijing's official line is that the student-led protests aimed to topple the ruling Communist Party and plunge China into chaos. Protest leaders said they were just seeking greater democracy and freedom, and an end to corruption and favouritism within the party. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HBC's luxury revamp pays off

Hudson's Bay Company. The Canadian retailer reported first-quarter net earnings of $176 million

The Hudson's Bay Company hopes a trend toward luxury goods will continue to boost its bottom line after swinging to a first-quarter profit on strong sales from Saks Fifth Avenue.

"We've been seeing a very strong, positive trend in luxury items — the more unique, the more expensive, the more special a product is, the greater the demand we seem to be getting, so that bodes well for Saks," HBC governor and CEO Richard Baker said during a conference call Tuesday to discuss first-quarter results.

HBC is on track to bring two Saks locations to Canada by the spring of 2016, he added, since the company sees "a substantial untapped opportunity for both luxury and off-price in Canada."

The Toronto-based retailer completed its acquisition of luxury U.S. retailer Saks late in 2013 for $2.9 billion including debt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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OIL $102.66 US (+$0.19)

GOLD $1,244.50 US (+$0. 50)

Natural gas: $4.61 US (-$0.01)
Dow Jones: 16,722.34 (-21.29)

PlayStation Portable is so 2009 ...

Models hold Sony PlayStation Portable video game machines during a promotional event in 2009 in Hong Kong. Sony Corp. is pulling the plug on its hand-held PlayStation Portable after 10 years. The Japanese electronics and entertainment company has been pushing the successor machine, PlayStation Vita. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Telecoms

Canada's Rogers makes deal with U.K.'s Vodafone

The Vodafone Group of telecommunications companies has signed an exclusive Canadian partnership agreement with Rogers Communications.

Rogers chief executive Guy Laurence, who headed Vodafone UK until he joined Toronto-based Rogers, said the new partnership will be a big benefit to its customers.

"We will draw on expertise and best practices from operators around the world to improve the products and services, like roaming and unified voice solutions, that we offer our consumer and business customers," Laurence said in a statement Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Instagram. Spend even more time editing pics

The photo-sharing app Instagram is adding editing tools that go beyond the vintage-looking filters that made it popular.

The Facebook-owned app said in a blog post Tuesday that users will be able to adjust the brightness, contrast, saturation and other features of photos they take with their smartphones.

The tools are available after downloading the newest version of Instagram, 6.0, on Android or Apple phones. The photo editing tools will appear under a wrench icon.

Instagram's filters can enhance photos or add a certain hue to them, to make them look like they were taken with a Polaroid camera in the 1970s. But as smartphone cameras have improved, many users have become more sophisticated about their snapshots. Some have turned to other apps with more powerful editing tools to fix photos before posting them on Instagram. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LIKE TIPPING, BUT WITHOUT THE TIP

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

It may cost more, especially when you add in the ferry ride to Vancouver Island, but we'll have to start having lunch at Smoke 'N Water, the new restaurant at the Pacific Shores Resort in Parksville.

Not only does the food look simple and good, Smoke 'N Water has a spectacular 6,000-gallon fish tank/aquarium.

Oh, and it's the first no-tipping restaurant in Canada.

Smoke 'N Water opened yesterday, and although I've been vigilantly scanning the Vancouver Island news, there are no reports of server riots or customer fainting spells. But it's still early …

As you may remember, I've written about tipping before, almost exactly a year ago, when a number of U.S. restaurants introduced a no-tipping policy. But this is Canada, land of peace, order and everything should stay the same.

Food industry experts are calling owner David Jones naive for his view that "tipping is a broken business model" but anyone who ever tries to do anything is naive. Until it succeeds.

Jones is going to actually pay his servers a living wage — between $20 and $24 an hour. Notoriously underpaid and overworked cooks will get $16 to $18. He'll even pay medical and dental, which is rare in Restaurantland.

Here's the hitch — prices will be about 18 per cent higher than the average. Jones is betting you'll pay roughly the same as you would if you left a tip just so you don't have to leave a tip.

So let's do the math. At $24 an hour, that's $192 for an eight-hour shift. If you're earning servers' minimum wage, which in B.C. is $9 an hour, you make a base of $72. You have to make up the rest on tips. Granted, servers can make well over $100 a day on tips, but they have to do a lot of stupid server tricks to make sure they get one — pretend to love everything on the menu, put little smiley faces on the bill, hover anxiously and expectantly while the customer figures out the 15 or 20 per cent.

This way, you get paid and retain your dignity. Crazy.

It's too early to tell if this will set a trend or if Smoke 'N Water will turn into so much smoke-'n-water damage. But what's not to like? If you're a customer, you can walk into a restaurant expecting good service to be part of the, um, service, not requiring an extra bribe. If you're a server, you're a member of a fairly paid team that works together to provide a superior dining experience. Like a grown-up.

And if you're David Jones, columnists across the continent write about your new restaurant the day after it opens.

Naive, eh?

Naive like a fox

Jones is betting you'll pay roughly the same as you would if you left a tip just so you don't have to leave a tip.

ZOOM

Still life?

An ear made of human cells is grown from samples provided from a distant relative of Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh. U.S.-based artist Diemut Strebe said she wants to combine art and science with the installation.
COURTESY DIEMUT STREBE/SUGABABE

Replica of van Gogh's ear grown from relative's DNA

A German museum has put on display a copy of Vincent van Gogh's ear that was grown using some of the Dutch artist's genetic material.

The Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe says the ear consists of living cells grown from samples provided by the great-great-grandson of van Gogh's brother. The museum says the genes are about 1/16th identical.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ear-y legend

He's known as the tortured genius who cut off his own ear, but two German historians claim that van Gogh lost his ear in a fight with his friend and fellow artist Paul Gauguin, with whom he was hopelessly infatuated.

- The official version usually goes that the disturbed Dutch painter severed his left ear lobe with a razor blade in a fit of lunacy one evening shortly before Christmas 1888. Bleeding heavily, van Gogh then wrapped it in cloth, walked to a nearby bordello and presented the severed ear to a prostitute.
- A book argues that van Gogh may have made up the story to protect Gauguin, a keen fencer, who actually lopped it off with a sword during a heated argument.

— ABCNEWS.GO.COM

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 9 in Scene, page 11 in Life and page 16 in Sports

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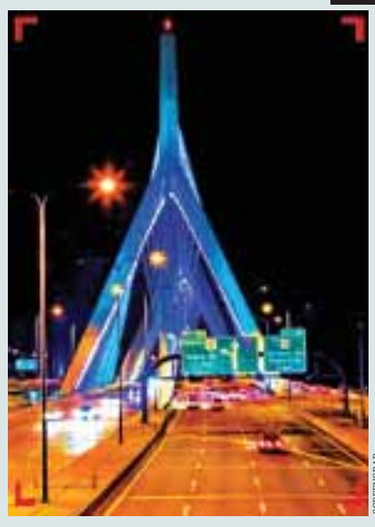
MetroTube

Boston: Beyond the Affleck

REBECCA WILLIAMS
readers@metronews.ca



SCREENGRAB

Boston is known for a lot of things: Mark Wahlberg, Ben Affleck, the lack of "r"s in its accent and, unlike some places, consistently successful sports teams.

Since the marathon bombings, its resilience is also engrained in the city's identity; Bostonians are "Boston Strong" through and through. This video portrait of the city goes beyond first glimpses of Beantown life and celebrates the city in all its stunning glory. Every city deserves this kind of a tribute. (Via Erik Rojas/Vimeo)

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See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app to take a sneak peek of Edge of Tomorrow.

Spy games

Stone ready to polarize audiences once again

Oliver Stone will write and direct a film about Edward Snowden, one of two high-profile films in the works about the National Security Agency leaker.

Stone announced Monday that he plans to adapt "The Snowden Files: The Inside Story of the World's Most Wanted Man," a book by Guardian journalist Luke Harding.

The project pairs one of cinema's most controversial directors with one of the most explosive news events in recent years — one that is ongoing.

"This is one of the greatest stories of our time," Stone said in a statement.

He will have some deep-pocketed competition. Sony Pictures last month purchased the big-screen rights to Glenn Greenwald's "No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA and the U.S. Surveillance State."

The film is being produced by James Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson.

Stone has advocated for the former NSA contract systems analyst, who is living in Russia on a temporary grant of asylum after leaking massive amounts of NSA documents to the media.

"To me, Snowden is a hero because he revealed secrets that we should all know, that the United States has repeatedly violated the Fourth Amendment," Stone said in a press conference at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic.

Live. Die. Repeat.

Déjà vu for Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt as she explains why wearing all of that gear must feel like an eternity in their new movie Edge of Tomorrow. CONTRIBUTED

Tomorrow, today, yesterday. Latest Tom Cruise flick sees its own shadow in a recurring theme on the big screen

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

"How many times have we been here," asks Rita (Emily Blunt). "For me, it's been an eternity," replies William (Cruise) as he relives the same day of an alien invasion over and over.

Edge of Tomorrow is a time-loop movie that can best be described as War of the Worlds meets Groundhog Day.

In Groundhog Day, Bill Murray says, "Every morning I wake up without a scratch on me, not a dent in the fender. I am an immortal." His take on a drunk, suicide-prone weatherman who discovers the beauty of life by living the same day endlessly may be the granddaddy of all Hollywood déjà vu stories, but many other movie characters have been caught in cinematic time circles.

The DVD cover for 2006's Salvage asks the question, "What if every day you relived your own murder?" Originally called Gruesome for the festival circuit, the movie is as grim as Bill Murray's film is life-affirming. Called a "digital video hell — spawn of Psycho, Eyes Without a Face and Groundhog Day," by Variety, Salvage is the story of Claire (Lauren Currie Lewis), a convenience store worker who undergoes her murder over and over. Despite its extremely low budget — star Lewis doubled as the film's make-up artist — Salvage was an official selection of the 2006 Sundance Festival.

metro

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11:33 AM
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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Hill backtracks after hurling homophobic slur at pap

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

This could just as easily be titled "Paparazzo successfully baits Jonah Hill into losing his cool by insulting his shorts."

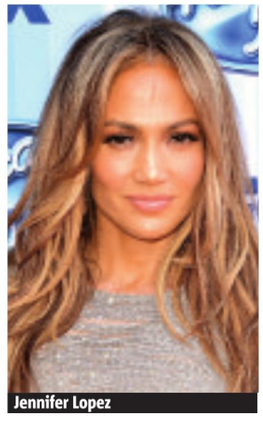
On Monday, a photographer pestering the comedy star caught him on tape using a homophobic slur (TMZ has the video). Hill, who was walking with friends in L.A., did his best to ignore the paparazzo, who was dancing around and shouting questions. "I like the shorts, though, bro. They're pretty sexy," the photographer said at one point, apparently a swipe at Hill's flowery summer shorts. Hill eventually lost his cool and yelled, "Suck my d—, you f—," at the photographer.

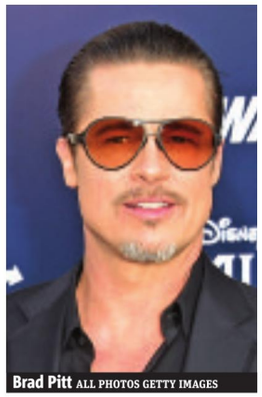
On Tuesday, Hill, who's been known as a strong supporter of the LGBT community, went on The Howard Stern Show to offer his sincere apology for using the slur. "In that moment, I said a disgusting word that does not at all reflect how I feel about any group of people. I grew up with gay family members. I'm leaving here to go spend the day with one of my closest co-workers and best friend, who is gay, who's getting married, who I'm going to stand (with) at his wedding," Hill told Stern.

Jenny from the Block makes sure bf won't talk

When you're Jennifer Lopez, it makes sense that certain precautions would need to be made before starting a relationship.

Among those precautions? Lopez reportedly had current boyfriend and choreographer Casper Smart sign a legal document forbidding him from discussing his and Lopez's relationship — personal or professional — with the media without her prior written approval, according to Radar Online. Lopez is "very savvy when it comes to business, but her love life is always filled with drama," a source says.


Jennifer Lopez


Brad Pitt ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Red-carpet prankster was trying to 'bury his face in my crotch,' Brad says

Brad Pitt is finally breaking his silence about his red carpet run-in with Ukrainian prankster Vitalii Sediuk at the Maleficent premiere last week.

"I was at the end of the line signing autographs, when out of the corner of my eye I saw someone stage-diving over the barrier at me," he tells People magazine in a statement.

"I took a step back. This guy had latched onto my lapels. I looked down and the nutter was trying to bury his face in my crotch, so I cracked him twice in the back of the head — not too hard, but enough to get his attention because he did let go. I think he was then just grabbing for a handhold because the guys were on him, and he reached up and caught my glasses."

The crotch-targeting is in line with Sediuk's style of prank, as he'd been caught sticking his head under America Ferrera's dress last month on a Cannes red carpet.

The disgraced TV reporter was sentenced to three years' probation, a year of counselling and a temporary restraining order keeping him away from Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

"I don't mind an exhibitionist," Pitt insists. "But if this guy keeps it up, he's going to spoil it for the fans who have waited up all night for an autograph or a selfie, because it will make people more wary to approach a crowd. And he should know if he tries to look up a woman's dress again, he's going to get stomped. "

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more images from the Travaasa Austin Experiential Resort.

Dude, here's the ranch!

Texas. Forget the golf and Vegas debauchery, a weekend at a ranch and spa is the new kind of mancation

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON
dobbernationloves.com
@dobbernation

After a hard day on the ranch, kick back with tequila and meals made with produce from the resort's organic farm. PHOTOS: ANDREW DOBSON/METRO

Hoping to plan the ultimate mancation this summer but feel the Vegas Bachelor Party is overplayed? You'll find the perfect alternative at Travaasa Austin Experiential Resort, located in breezy Texas Hill Country.

Nestled against 210 acres of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, the resort offers a perfect playground for macho men who have a penchant for pampering.

Meals are served at Jean's Kitchen under the watchful eye of chef Benjamin Baker, who creates new menus each day to reflect the changing harvest.

His kitchen showcases produce from the resort's working organic farm, as well as locally sourced meat, fish and dairy to create flavourful, healthful meals with a Texas fusion flair.

Those who enjoy a splash in their glass will appreciate the top-notch sipping tequila, small batch bourbon and local Texas craft brews on offer at the bar.

The resort includes riding stables, a high ropes challenge course designed in partnership with Outward Bound, fitness centre, pump track, yoga studio, infinity-edge pool, dining room which spills onto a pretty patio, and a tranquil, 11-room award-winning spa.

Guests are encouraged to make the most of their vacation; relax by the pool and stretch out at morning yoga or dive right into the adrenalin rush via bike pump track and giant swing.

Those looking for an active adventure will find a dizzying number of activities to chose from. Start by holding your breath while walking the tight rope at the Prickly Pear Challenge Course before soaring through the treetops on a 250-foot-long zip line. Cyclists will find their own slice of nirvana while whizzing through a 100-square-feet Pump Track specializing in jump biking.

And no trip to Texas is complete unless you've saddled up, so be sure to stop by the equine centre with your cowboy boots. Hop on a friendly quarter horse for a guided trail ride, which includes a splash in a quiet creek and zig-zag adventure up a hillside dotted with oak and mountain juniper.

Finish the trip by treating yourself at Travaasa's award-winning wellness spa. Male guests indulge in treatments in the Western Sky Room, lined with reclaimed Douglas fir planks from an old Texas elementary school and Loblolly pine from a local library.

The ceiling is etched with a fibre-optic recreation of the Texas night sky, a deer bust hangs overhead and a rawhide chair offers a welcome spot to relax both before and after your treatment.

Indulge in the detoxifying juniper olive stone exfoliation and massage and you'll be singing sweet zzz's.

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Flanders Fields tour not one to forget

Belgium. 100 years on, the gravity of the Great War comes to life while wandering through Ypres

The Trenches of Death in Diksmuide, Belgium, are well preserved. ALL PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red poppies were first symbolized as a means of remembrance by Canadian First World War soldier and surgeon Lt. Col. John McCrae.

Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials, with 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried there.

Crimson poppies still dance in the breeze as if nothing horrific happened in Flanders Fields of Ypres. But a century after the start of the First World War, the flowers endure as a symbol of the dead, in part because of a celebrated poem:

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow — Between the crosses, row on row."

The famous flowers are among many reminders of the region's connection to the Great War. Amid monuments and headstones in this western corner of Belgium, Flanders' eerie landscapes, trenches and bunkers continue to evoke the soldiers who died here by the hundreds of thousands. As carefree 21st century travel goes, a tour of Flanders Fields packs a punch that can long stay with you.

The haunting poem, In Flanders Fields, was written by Lt. Col. John McCrae, a doctor from Guelph, Ont., who ran a field hospital during the war. During a recent wreath-laying ceremony at the massive Tyne Cot burial grounds to honour the dead, the poem was read aloud by a student visiting with a group from St. George's Academy in Sleaford, England.

"The kids are really moved by it," said teacher Charlotte Tilley. "We had about half a dozen crying."

One stunning aspect of a visit here is the region's beauty and serenity. A spectacular springtime has turned the once barren, muddy battlegrounds lush with ripening wheat fields and pastures where cattle chew thick grass.

Walk through Ypres, which has four battles named for it, and you'd be forgiven for thinking you're in a splendidly preserved medieval town with a Gothic hall, gabled houses and spires. But what was left of the town on Nov. 11, 1918 — when the war ended — were stumps, rubble and vague memories where homes once stood. Ypres' second battle saw the first use of chemical weapons in warfare, and its third, named for the tiny village of Passchendaele, saw 150,000 men die in 100 days.

Some wanted Ypres to stay in ruins as remembrance. The people immediately decided otherwise and started rebuilding, "as if there never had been a war. It was very much a psychological reaction," said Piet Chielens, the co-ordinator of the In Flanders Fields museum, which is housed in the rebuilt neo-Gothic hall on the marketplace.

"Ypres immediately became a centre of remembrance. The first tourists and pilgrims arrived in early spring of 1919," said Chielens.

Massive crowds are expected this year. "We believe there will be something like half a million visitors this year coming from at least 70 different nations," Chielens said.

Even ahead of the official start of the centenary in August, hundreds, sometimes a few thousand, flock to the 8 p.m. playing of the Last Post, the daily salute at Ypres' Menin Gate, where walls list 54,000 soldiers who perished but were never found.

The deafening silence once the bugle stops playing is a must in remembrance tourism, as is the In Flanders Fields Museum. But visitors should also take time away from the ceremonies and crowds to wander across the flat fields dotted with low-flung ridges where so many fought and died.

"The real museum is still out there," said Chielens. "The traces, the scars in the landscape, the numerous monuments and cemeteries that will give you that sense of loss and tragedy."

It might be a tiny cemetery where only dozens of soldiers lie, a rain-sodden trench, or a derelict German bunker.

The city of Diksmuide has the Ijzertoren memorial with sweeping views of battlefields from atop its 84-metre (275-foot) tower. Nearby, the warren of Dodengang trenches brings the claustrophobia of war home, even if it no longer has the rats, stench and enemy within shouting distance.

Yet tourists should not limit their trip to pondering war. "You learn to understand what the importance of living and enjoying life is after you have been confronted with the experience," Chielens said.

If you go...

For more information on visiting Flanders Fields, go to visitflanders.us.

For kids, that might mean a visit to the Bellewaerde theme park. For grown-ups, gastronomy stands out. Those with money and sense to reserve ahead should try In De Wulf, considered one of the world's best restaurants, in the village of Dranouter, close to the Kemmel Ridge battle site. You might spot a chef picking flowers in the fields that will turn up on your dinner plate, or you might be served, as a vegetable, shoots from hop plants used in brewing the region's famous beer.

For tourists, there's nothing like a summer's evening with a Hommelbier or St. Bernardus Tripel on a terrace to let the day sink in. And while the memory of those fluttering poppies may fade, the sense of what happened here will likely grow stronger. As McCrae wrote:

"If ye break faith with us who die — We shall not sleep, though poppies grow — In Flanders fields."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colourful vegetables and tortillas stack up to a hill-of-beans snack

Mixed Vegetable and Bean Tortilla Stack.
Chock full of vegetables, this vegetarian meal is colourful and perfect for a weeknight

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Make dinner fun and easy with lots of colour with vegetables. Dinner will look good and taste great with easy pantry staples that you can put together in no time at all. While the stack is baking, be sure to put together an easy green salad or coleslaw to enjoy alongside.

Using fresh herbs and vegetables helps bring summer into the kitchen.

Keep a stash of canned beans in your kitchen for quick meals or snacks. This is a great after-school snack for kids to enjoy to keep them satisfied until dinner is ready. Get them involved and cooking by chopping vegetables and putting the stack together; you save time, and they will learn important life skills.

Cooking tip

- Use a serrated knife to make it easier to cut into this stack.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 small red bell pepper, diced
- 1 small zucchini, diced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) diced red onion
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) chili powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground cumin
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) corn kernels (cut from 1 cob of corn or frozen)
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 small whole wheat flour tortillas
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shredded cheddar cheese

Topping:

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) plain 0% yogurt
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh cilantro or parsley
- 1 tomato, diced

This recipe makes four servings. Make two stacks for a bigger crowd and added leftovers. EMILY RICHARDS

1. In nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook pepper, zucchini, onion, garlic, chili powder and cumin, stirring for about 8 minutes or until very soft. Remove from heat and stir in corn; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in shallow dish, mash beans with potato masher until fairly smooth. Stir in vegetable mixture until combined.

3. Lay 1 flour tortilla onto a small baking sheet and spread with half of the bean mixture. Sprinkle with half of the cheese. Repeat once and top with final tortilla.

4. Topping: Spread yogurt over top of tortilla and sprinkle with cheese. Bake in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until edges are crispy and filling is hot. Remove from oven and sprinkle with cilantro and tomato.

5. Cut in quarters to serve.

This recipe serves six people. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Versatile farro and veggies

Farro and vegetable salad with cucumber ranch dressing is pretty versatile. If you have carnivores coming for dinner, you can bulk it up with chicken or shrimp.

Ingredients

Dressing:

- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped seedless cucumber
- 1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons snipped fresh chives
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh tarragon, dill or parsley

Salad:

- 2 cups cooked farro (follow package directions)
- 1 cup cooked shelled edamame

1 cup coarsely shredded carrots
1 cup coarsely shredded radishes
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)

1. In a blender, combine the cucumber, mayonnaise, buttermilk, garlic, lemon juice, oil and salt and pepper, to taste. Puree until smooth. Stir in the chives and tarragon, then transfer to a jar and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, toss together the farro, edamame, carrots and radishes. Season with salt and pepper.

3. To serve, add the feta to the salad, if using. Toss the salad with two thirds of the dressing, then divide among 6 serving plates. Serve the extra dressing on the side. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruise your way through culture shock caused by any new cubicle

It's a new job, it's a new day, and you're feeling good. Don't be daunted by the difference in atmosphere from one office to the next

MICHELLE SAMMUT
TalentEgg.ca

Are the people around you sharing stories about their weekend or are they talking about work? The level of personal interaction at a workplace can reflect whether a culture values building community or growing the bottom line. ISTOCK

If you're ready to make a career move, transitioning from one office to another can be a challenge. You've done your homework on Company X and have the skill set to succeed in your new role, but the everyday details of your new environment are a mystery.

Organizational culture is the overall system of beliefs, behaviours, customs and dynamics that make up the identity of a workplace.

There are as many different types of culture as there are companies, so how do you prepare yourself for success if your past and present work cultures are like night and day?

Here are seven useful tips to ensure a smooth transition and help you overcome any office culture shock.

Before you get there

1. Establish a cultural checklist. Make a list of the qualities you liked and disliked about your last workplace to figure out which cultural qualities you need at the office in order to thrive (like an open-door policy with management) and those you can live without (lunchtime yoga classes). Developing your sense of self-awareness can help to inform your future career strategy.

2. Identify what Company X's online presence is like. Are they active on social media? Do they have a blog? Does their website feature staff photos or personal bios? If an online culture is fun and interactive it may reflect a youthful culture offline. If their online presence is more formal, offline culture could be by the book.

Party with your pod

Establishing personal connections can sometimes be a challenge at larger organizations, so getting involved outside of the office can help you build social capital.

3. Ask strategic questions during an interview to get an idea of how your cultural checklist might fit with theirs. Targeted questions that touch on issues like work/life balance can offer you a glimpse of their cultural expectations and help you determine whether you can get behind them. Potential questions include: "What does the busiest time of year look like?" and "Which teams will I be interacting with?"

Once you arrive

4. Embark on a "culture walk" around the office and look for artifacts that implicitly tell a company story. Family photos on desks, accomplishments on office walls, memos on bulletin boards and the arrangement of furniture can all provide insights. Market-driven cultures typically have financial goals and targets displayed in plain view on whiteboards. Highly collaborative cultures might have open-concept work areas where desks are arranged into clusters.

5. Listen to the conversations happening around the office. You can discern culture by the way work is communicated. Are projects assigned primarily through email or is your manager more likely to stop by your desk to chat about it in person?

6. Find a mentor who can help you navigate office norms and habits. Invite them out for coffee as a way to get to know them better and learn more about their time with Company X.

7. Ask around about social initiatives and activities at the organization, such as volunteer programs or organized sports leagues. Establishing personal connections can sometimes be a challenge at larger organizations, so getting involved outside of the office can help you build social capital. The initiatives a company is involved with can also be a great indication of their cultural values.

Remember, adjusting to a new role always takes some time. Be patient with the process and be proud of yourself for moving on to the next step in your career path!

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Twitter

TalentEgg #Questionofthe-Day: Should you still include your mailing address on your cover letter/resume?

@EDSPowell
It seems to be expected, though I know some people worry about applying remotely and getting screened out!

@Recruit_Campus
I'm more concerned about including your LinkedIn URL, appropriate email address & phone # with VM.

@EvanBirtch
You'd figure with most correspondence via email you wouldn't need it, but it would look weird w/o it

@IronWhisk
No. Just your city is best. You don't want to scare away potential employers because you're "far"

@OTCoop
It's not a likely method of communication, but still imp. to have. Either on the resume or CL but not both.

CAREER FINDER

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Environment Week (June 1-7) aims to draw attention to the challenges our environment is facing today. SHUTTERSTOCK

Swap screen time for some green time

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

This week, Canadians are participating in community and national events designed to celebrate, appreciate and teach us about caring for our environment.

Environment Week, from June 1-7, is an annual event that inspires preservation, protection and restoration of our environment. This year's theme is Strengthening Our Environment for Today and Tomorrow, but this grassroots celebration has strong roots in our country's past.

The concept dates back to 1970, when a growing concern about pollution led to the notion that Canada should devote one week each year to focus on the environment.

"Canadians spend about half as much time outside as they did a couple generations ago, and more than six hours of screen time each day," said Jode Roberts, spokesperson from the David Suzuki Foundation, one of the country's leading environmental organizations. "Environment Week events provide opportunities to replace screen time with green time and get involved in environmental causes in their community."

There are celebrations happening across the country throughout the week to bring awareness to the challenges our environment faces today and what we need to do for a more environmentally-friendly tomorrow. Here are just two of the key events:

World Environment Day on Thursday is an opportunity to recognize the progress we've made when it comes to caring for our environment, but also reminds us all that our efforts must continue throughout the year.

Thursday is also Clean Air Day, a time to promote the importance of clean air, and prompt all Canadians to continue making changes in the way we live to help reduce the impact of our environmental footprint.

Eco-conscious commuting beneficial in many ways

With the warm weather finally here, many Canadians are taking the opportunity to reflect on the environmental impacts of their daily routines. For commuters, summer's imminent arrival provides a perfect backdrop for Canadian Environment Week, which encourages everyone to play a role in protecting the natural world by choosing eco-friendly transportation.

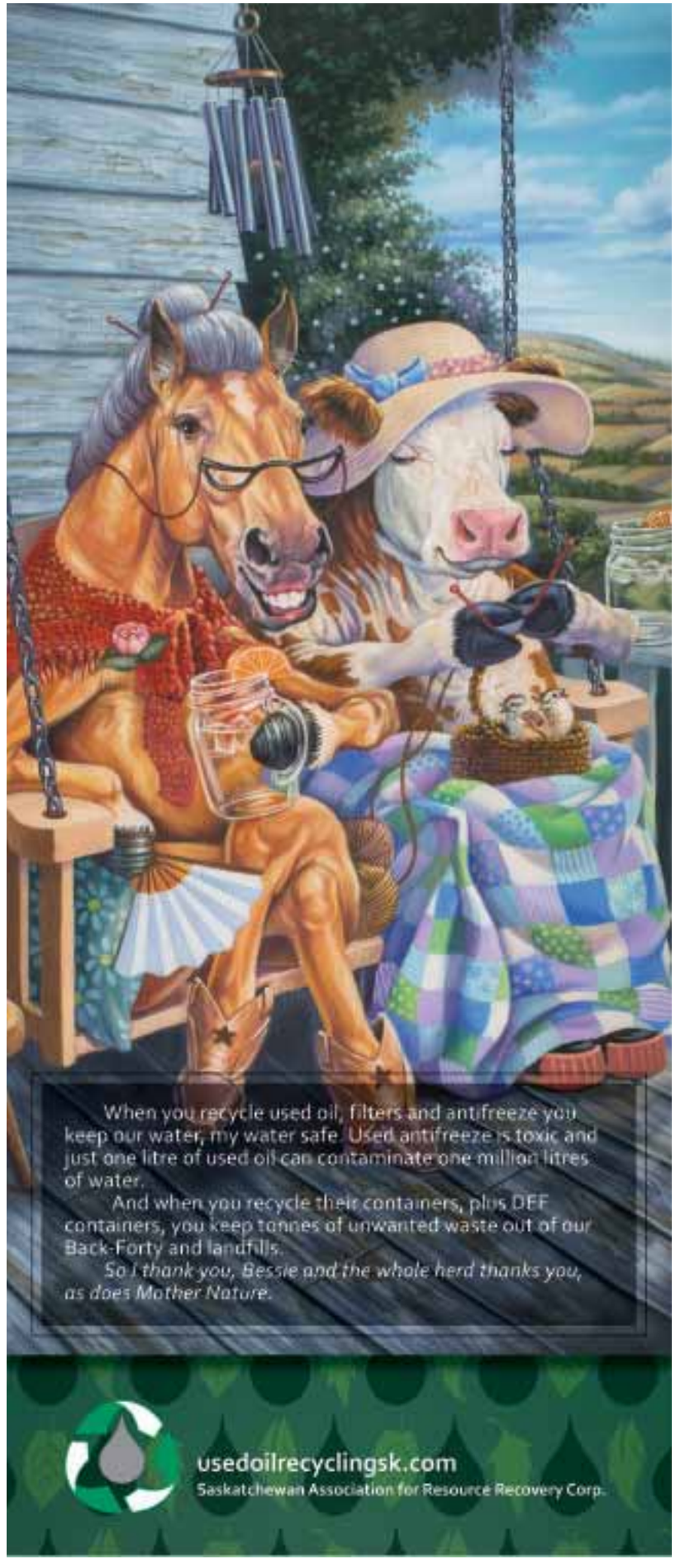
Enjoying an environmentally-conscious commute is not only good for the Earth, but also for your physical and mental health. Cycling to work has never been easier, as ever-expanding networks of bike paths help make Canadian cities more friendly for pedallers.

If taking the car is a must, a carpool or ride share provides opportunities to socialize with fellow commuters, reduce congestion on the roads, and decrease smog and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Incorporating other sustainable choices into morning rituals such as packing a lunch and a cup of coffee can make a small but important difference. Rather than plastic wrap or tinfoil, for instance, try reusable containers. Similarly, buying snacks in bulk, as opposed to in individual packages, helps reduce your environmental footprint.

KIERAN VAN/FOR METRO

Cycling to work, bringing a travel mug and reusable containers all help the environment. SHUTTERSTOCK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And when you recycle their containers, plus DEF containers, you keep tonnes of unwanted waste out of our Back-Forty and landfills.
So I thank you, Bessie and the whole herd thanks you, as does Mother Nature.
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Bouncing back into a Grand Slam semi

French Open. Bouchard sets up match against 2012 champ Sharapova; Raonic falls to Djokovic in quarter-finals

Eugenie Bouchard celebrates winning her French Open quarter-final match against Carla Suarez Navarro in Paris on Tuesday. DARKO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eugenie Bouchard is preparing for her second straight Grand Slam semifinal. Fellow Canadian Milos Raonic is still looking to reach his first.

Bouchard defeated Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-5 at the French Open on Tuesday. The match was completed a couple hours before Raonic came up short in his bid to reach the men's final four, dropping a 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-4 decision to Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

Next up for Bouchard, a 20-year-old from Westmount, Que., is a meeting with Maria Sharapova. The 2012 champion from Russia advanced with a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 over Garbine Muguruza of Spain.

"I'm very content with a win like this," said Bouchard. "It was a battle throughout. She played very well especially on long points.

"The last set was key for me. I'm really excited to be playing Sharapova in a big match here."

Bouchard is the third Canadian woman to reach the Roland Garros quarter-finals after Carling Bassett-Seguso (1984, 1986) and Helen Kelesi (1988, 1989). Bouchard and Bassett-Seguso are the only players to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam, the latter doing so at the 1984 U.S. Open.

Earlier this year, Bouchard reached the Australian Open semifinals but lost to eventual champion Li Na of China. Sylvain Bruneau, the captain of the Canadian Fed Cup team, said Bouchard learned from that experience and is comfortable in the spotlight.

"I expect her to be able to really raise her (game), to really play her best tennis against Sharapova," he said. "Really be in the moment and not be caught up with anything else (except) the ball and the next point."

As for Raonic, the No. 8 seed from Thornhill, Ont., went toe-to-toe with Djokovic over the first two sets before fading in the third. The Canadian fired 21 aces but converted only one of two break opportunities.

The second-seeded Djokovic was broken while serving for the victory at 5-2, but the veteran closed it out two games later when a Raonic forehand sailed wide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Her finer points

46

Eugenie Bouchard finished her match Tuesday with 46 winners, 38 unforced errors and breaks on six of 14 chances.

CFL labour

Union says work stoppage looks like a possibility

The CFL is one step closer to a work stoppage after the league rejected the union's most recent offer, the president of the CFL Players' Association said Tuesday.

"I think we are," Scott Flory said in a phone interview. "I think it's safe to say we are."

The players tabled a new offer on Monday that called for a shorter term and included concessions on the salary cap and the amount of revenue that would trigger the renegotiation of the deal.

The two sides haven't met face-to-face since Thursday and no new talks are scheduled.

CFL commissioner Mark Cohon said he hopes the players don't go on strike but that the next move is theirs.

"We understand they're very serious but we want to see football," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In a better place

"To me, it's just a better situation than it was in Ottawa. I'm just being honest, from top to bottom."

Quarterback Kevin Glenn on being traded to the B.C. Lions from the Redblacks. Glenn said he had wanted to be "the guy" in Ottawa, but after the signing of Henry Burris in February, Glenn demanded a trade.

Kings, Rangers have taken long roads to final

Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist skates during a practice session on Tuesday at Staples Center in Los Angeles. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Scan the image with your Metro News app for a gallery of the events around the Stanley Cup final from Tuesday.

It's taken the Kings 21 playoff games and the Rangers 20 to get to this Stanley Cup final. They have survived five Game 7s along the way.

But in truth, the journey started a lot longer ago.

The ride cost Los Angeles forward Jeff Carter his two front teeth. Ask him how it happened and he digs deep into the memory bank.

"Couple of separate incidents," he said, flashing a smile with a gap that would accommodate a quarter. The backstory gets a little fuzzy after that, although a puck to the mouth was involved.

Kings goalie Jonathan Quick changed allegiance on his road. He grew up a Rangers fan in Milford, Conn., and remembers watching Mike Richter and Mark Messier lead the Blueshirts to the 1994 Stanley Cup.

He recalls having a couple of friends over for Game 7. He was eight years old.

On Wednesday, Carter, Quick and the Kings go after their second Stanley Cup in three seasons with the underdog New York Rangers standing in their way. New York is back in the final for the first time in 20 years.

On media day Tuesday, Los Angeles GM Dean Lombardi took a playful swipe at New York, noting he had worked in Philadelphia for three years.

"Part of the qualifications for that job was I had to learn to hate the Rangers in a hurry," he said.

The hate is on for real Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going the distance

26

The Kings are nearing the record for most playoff games in a season. The current mark is 26, set by the 1987 Philadelphia Flyers and 2004 Calgary Flames. The most games by a cup winner is 25, by the 2006 Carolina Hurricanes and 2011 Boston Bruins.

2015 Nissan Micra

- **Type.** Five-door, front-wheel drive subcompact hatchback
- **Engines (hp).** 1.6-litre inline four-cylinder (109)
- **Transmissions.** Five-speed manual, four-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $11,399

Market position

Very clear market position: least expensive new vehicle you can buy in Canada. Aimed at first-time buyers on a budget, urban dwellers who desire a car with a tidy footprint, and serious downsizers of every other demographic. Competition is other small hatchbacks — and used cars.

Points

- Very successful global car. Currently sold in 160 countries — but not currently in the U.S.
- Nissan Canada took three years to develop this exclusive-to-Canada version, based on European-market Micra.
- Shares platform with larger Nissan Versa Note Hatchback.
- No 6-speeds, CVTs, heated seats or navigation availability keeps prices down.

This subcompact hatchback is based on a European model.

Safety

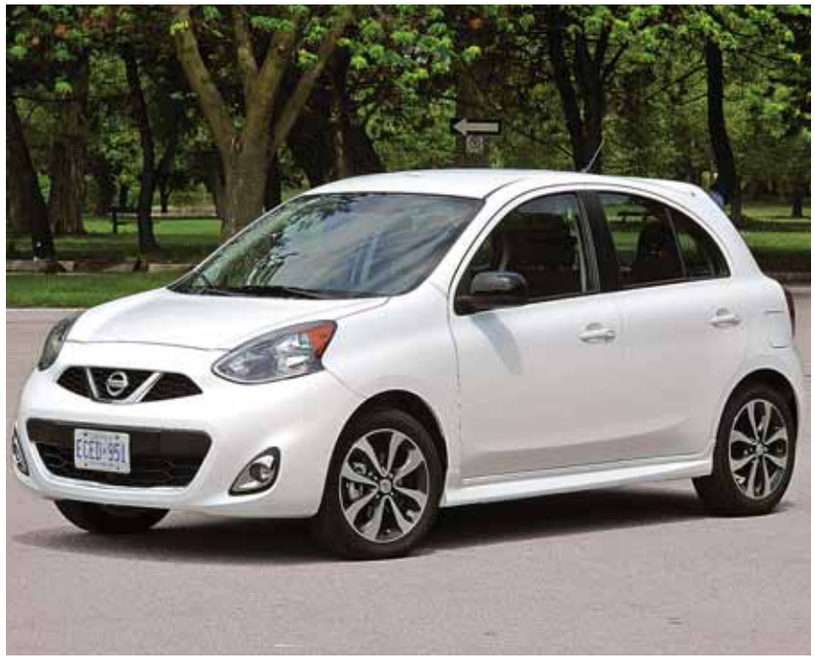
Six standard air bags; standard front/rear disc/drum brakes with ABS and Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist; standard traction control and stability control; standard anchors and tethers for child seats; available rear backup camera and monitor.

Nissan Micra: Small is a virtue

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Review. Short and purposeful, the Micra is a Napoleon Dynamite

MICHAEL GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca



The five-speed manual is smooth and quick to shift, and feels zippy over all.

Small cars have a hard time in North America, the land of the Denny's Grand Slam Breakfast and the 7-Eleven Big Gulp: If we can finish it, you didn't make it big enough.

But a new breed of small cars has been winning fans recently, due to their new-found features and hip styling, which were heretofore only available in larger, more expensive cars. But some of this nice stuff has pushed prices to where many small cars no longer wear small price tags.

Enter the 2015 Nissan Micra. At $9,998, it has the lowest base price of any new vehicle available in Canada. (Destination and PDI charges are $1,400.)

Micra's pricing advantage gets diminished once you move off that S base model with the 5-speed manual transmission. Add automatic transmission, air conditioning and cruise, and you're looking at another $3,000 or so.

But pricing always stays low and lovely on all three trim levels (S, SV and SR).

The main point is that Nissan gives you a sub-$10,000 option and others don't.

Micra also turns out be to be a great little vehicle. I recently took a very-white, top-level SR model out for a twirl, and was surprised by how much fun it was to drive.

The five-speed manual was smooth and quick to shift, and the 106-hp 1.6-litre engine was torque-y and very agreeable to being revved.

Overall, it *feels* zippy, which is actually preferable to a car that might *be* more zippy, but doesn't transmit that feeling to the driver.

It also handles well, due to the European-spec suspension, with an additional sway bar. The Canadian Micra is the only Micra in the world with both front and rear sway bars.

The rear accommodations are predictably tight for a car that stretches just 3.8 metres. But the upside is great agility, and more parking opportunities around town.

Its turning radius is also ridiculously short. You can easily turn around in the middle of most side streets. Sometimes it's good to be small.

You have to hand it to Nissan for finding this low-cost gap in the market, and for wanting to exploit it to get more new customers into the Nissan fold — customers that traditionally might have gone to the used market. Nissan even has a special financing program, just for first-time buyers that choose Micra — no previous credit history required.

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Strong enough for car crashes, light enough for fuel efficiency

High-strength steel. Automakers can use several grades in a vehicle for optimum performance

JIL MCINTOSH
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Automakers face two major challenges when they build vehicles. Cars must be strong enough to protect occupants in a crash, but they must also be as lightweight as possible to meet stringent fuel-economy standards.

One product that addresses both issues is high-strength steel, which itself is constantly being improved for better performance.

"There are different types and grades, with unique microstructural characteristics that engineers build into the product," says Ron Watkins, president of the Canadian Steel Producers Association. "It's a tremendous amount of work, but the auto industry is always looking for fuel efficiency."

Steel becomes stronger through three factors: alloys such as manganese, boron or silicon that are added to the molten steel mix; continuous slab production to ensure each section receives the same heating and cooling treatment; and "work hardening," when stamping or forming parts, which alters steel's structure.

By adjusting the ingredients used, or the way the steel is processed, steelmakers can produce various strengths, including the strongest advanced high-strength steel (AHSS).

In a crash, cars need to crumple progressively, gradually absorbing the crash energy so it isn't transmitted to the occupants. Different steel grades can be used to create this gradual crunch, with the highest-strength steel used in the passenger compartment, which has to remain intact and uncrushed.

AHSS is more expensive than conventional steel, but because it's so much stronger, automakers use less of it overall. In some cases, a component made of AHSS could be as strong as one made of regular steel, but contain 20 to 35 per cent less material, which helps to offset the high-strength steel's extra cost. The major benefit is that the car now weighs less, which improves fuel efficiency.

So why not make the whole car out of it? It comes down to selecting the most appropriate product for each component, how strong it needs to be, and the price. A hood doesn't have a heavy load requirement, for example, so an automaker is more likely to make a lightweight version out of lower-cost aluminum than higher-priced AHSS.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Material matters may be taking up a great deal of your time but don't focus on them to the exclusion of everything else. Balance your pursuit of success with something of a more spiritual nature.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Current influences make you intensely ambitious but don't forget you have limits like everyone else. Make sure you know what they are.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Keep what you know to yourself today, especially if the knowledge you have been given could be dangerous to people in positions of power. There is a time to rock the boat but that time is not yet.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You won't have to try too hard to make an impression today. Colleagues know what you are capable of but even people in positions of power are beginning to see there is something special about you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to raise your sights and pursue interests that are worthy of your time and your energy. What they may be should be a little clearer after today.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You are determined to do something different, but you need to get started now. Come the weekend, Mercury turns retrograde, and all sorts of obstacles will be placed in your way.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It will pay you to be a little less independent over the next few days. Just because you don't like certain people does not mean you can't work with them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to be under quite a bit of pressure at the moment and that pressure will build over the next few days. Make life easier by taking nothing too seriously, least of all yourself.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may have certain duties to fulfill but that does not mean you have to do everything others expect of you. Make sure everyone knows that you answer to only yourself!

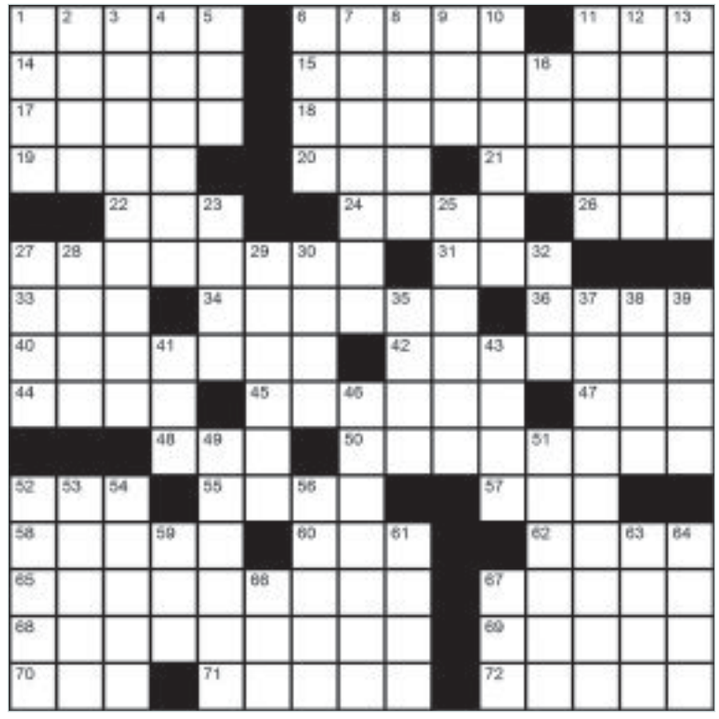
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to make sacrifices today but the effort will be worth it. Not only do you have enough energy and enthusiasm to get things done for yourself but you will gladly help others as well.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
It may seem that the odds are stacked against you but that is an illusion brought about by too narrow a focus. Expand your horizons and embrace the world.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do what you have to do as quickly as possible, then devote yourself to activities that bring a smile to your face. Life should be about fun, not work. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

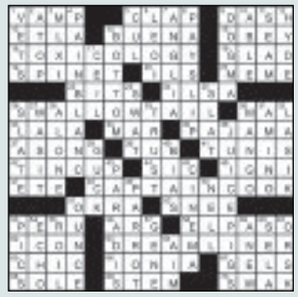
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Shoes: __ marks
6. Unleash, as uproar
11. Li'l norm
14. Bert's pal
15. "Twelve men broke loose in '73 / From __ maximum security." — The Tragically Hip
17. Relinquished
18. Ottawa's "Desire 126" band
19. Pegs
20. Lanka's lead
21. Intl. air carrier, once: 2 wds.
22. American '66', e.g.
24. Sweetie
26. The Waste Land poet's monogram
27. Life insurance co. since 1896
31. Snap
33. Texter's POV
34. Birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen
36. Finished
40. Like an illuminated night
42. Newfoundland town or bay
44. Seal herds
45. Selection
47. Hebrides turndown
48. Toward the ship's stern
50. June 4- 5, 2014 'G7' Summit locale
52. Perhaps-es
55. Fancy suffix to 'Art'
57. Archaic 'your'
58. Bombers and Oilers
60. Birmingham's li'l state
62. Roof part
65. House at Hogwarts
67. Boo-booed
68. Town called 'Manitoba's Valley Paradise'
69. __ du Canada (honour, in French)
70. Outer: Prefix
71. Crispy breads
72. Donald's response, when asked who Kiefer is: 2 wds.

Down
1. Splinter group
2. Actress Ms. Summer
3. Country's Carrie (More at #49-Down)
4. Pinata party
5. Feasted
6. Cheerios' uniform letters on "Glee"
7. Cranberries singer, Dolores O'__
8. Canadian advice columnist Ms. Tesher
9. __-inclusive
10. Scarab-headed god of ancient Egypt
11. __-garde
12. Sacred Hindu texts
13. Folklore figure
16. Certain constellation
23. Organic compound
25. Short synopsis
27. Dweeb
28. Farm song bit: "Here _ __, there..."
29. Decrees
30. Mr. Rogen
32. Bamboozle
35. Awaken
37. BC: Okanagan Valley sights
38. And others, for short: 2 wds.
39. Reuben requirements
41. Edward Snowden related org.
43. Superlative suffix
46. Pyramid-top pillar
49. Mike __ (Canadian hockey star married to #3-Down)
51. Wine from Spain
52. Familiar reply to "Who's there?": 2 wds.
53. Oscar's tidy roommate
54. Decline: 2 wds.
56. Tropical tubers
59. Range's one-of-some, briefly
61. Santa __ (Hot winds)
63. True: Italian
64. Perfect place
66. Univ. web address ending, sometimes
67. 30th, sometimes, as per calendars [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword



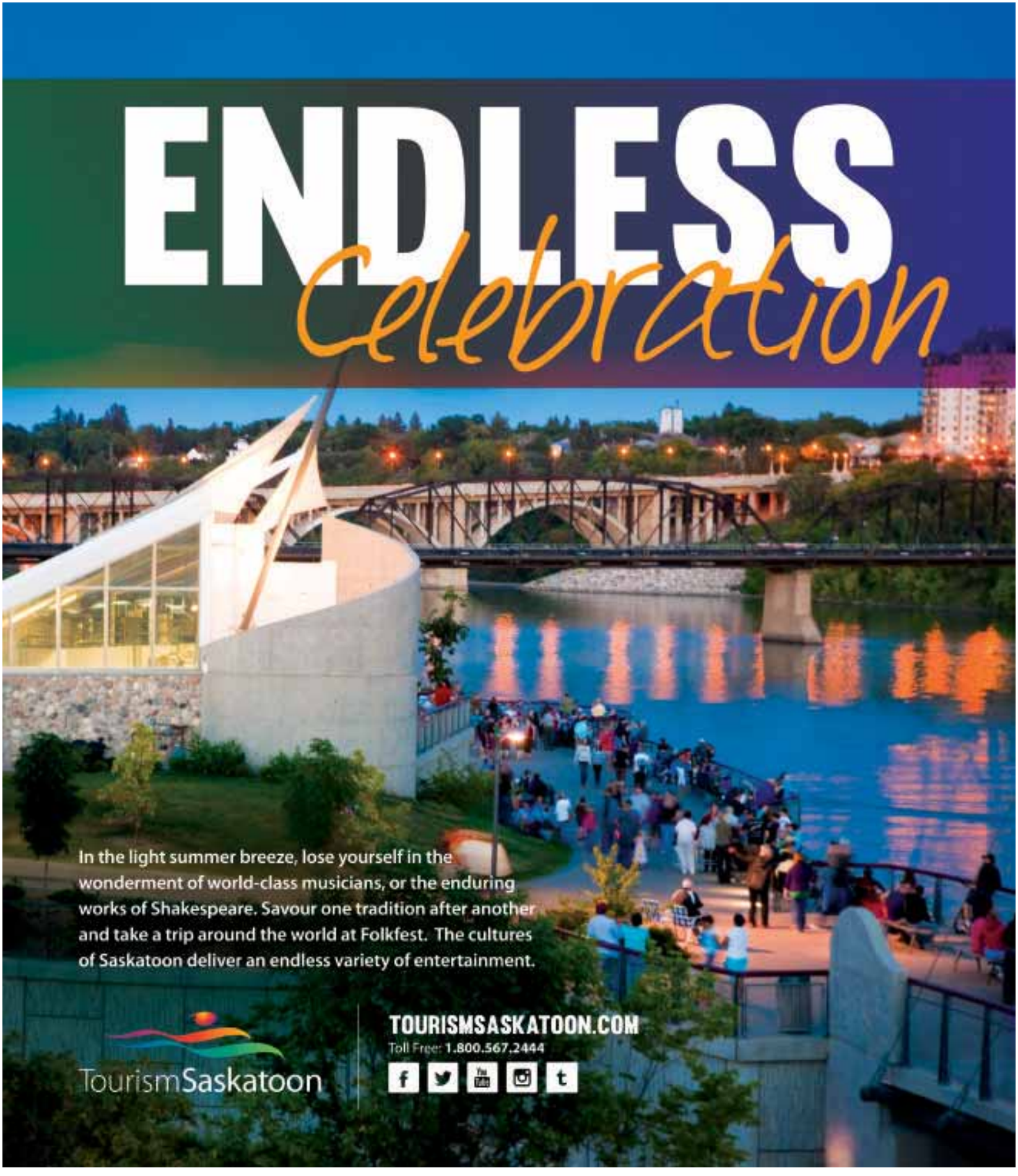
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9			5		4			2
	7		1		3		9	
		6				7		
		1	8		9	6		
6								8
		4	3		6	1		
		2				9		
	5		6		2		3	
4			7		1			5

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	8	3	6	5	9	7	1
1	5	3	9	7	8	4	2	6
9	7	6	4	1	2	3	5	8
3	8	2	6	9	1	7	4	5
7	1	5	2	4	3	8	6	9
6	9	4	8	5	7	2	1	3
2	4	1	5	3	9	6	8	7
8	3	7	1	2	6	5	9	4
5	6	9	7	8	4	1	3	2


ENDLESS
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